

Serial No. 10/045,048
Art Unit 2136

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Thornton, "Linux on the System/390" and U.S. Patent 6,725,370 issued to Sakakura.

In responding to the Applicant's earlier arguments, the Examiner appears to have mischaracterized the Applicant's arguments. The Applicant is not arguing that Sakura does not teach access control. Rather, the Applicant is arguing that neither reference teaches the network management aspect of the claimed invention. Each of the Applicant's previous arguments reflects this. As previously argued, the present invention is not directed to a specific method of implementing compartments, but rather to the usage of the compartment method to provide a novel approach to network management. This is useful in network management of telecommunication systems and network elements therein, since network elements can be shared by independent operators from different carriers who wish to protect access to their respective network management systems.

The Applicant herein repeats the previous arguments, in a way which should clarify the Applicant's arguments. Neither Thornton nor Sakura teach or suggest:

"a network management system" (claim 1)

"whereby each operator accesses the network management system via the access control of the compartment assigned to that operator" (claim 1)

"a network element in a communications system" (claim 2)

"whereby each operator accesses the network element via the access control of the compartment assigned to that operator" (claim 2)

"a method of controlling access to a network element in a communications system" (claim 8)

"whereby each operator access the network element via the access control of the compartment assigned to that operator" (claim 8)

Neither Thornton nor Sakura teach or suggest every element of claims 1, 2, and 8, either alone or in combination. Claims 3 to 7 are dependent on claim 2. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established against claims 1 to 8.

Serial No. 10/045,048
Art Unit 2136

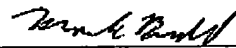
Given that the Examiner appears to have mischaracterized the Applicant's previous response, the Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In addition, claims 1, 2, and 8 teach the use of common operations software. It should be borne in mind that operations software is distinct from an operating system. The claims refer to a compartmented operating system, which is what Thornton appears to teach (virtual System/390 operating systems). The claims also teach the use of common operations software. Common operations software is described in the description of the present application at paragraph [0016] and illustrated in Figure 2 as elements 30 and 32. The common operations software is the "same software code ... operating as two separate processes" (paragraph [0018]). "Since the software is the same for every operator updates and maintenance are easier than in the prior art" (paragraph [0019]). It is this compartmentalization of common operations software which allows network managers to manage their networks in isolation from each others' processes. While Thornton may teach a compartmented operating system, Thornton does not teach common operations software operating within those compartments. This is also not a feature taught by Sakakura.

The remaining claims are dependent on claim 2 and include the same limitations discussed above. Because Thornton and Sakakura do not teach common operations software, either alone or in combination, the Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established against claims 1-8.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims at present on file are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and action to this end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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